

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 8-10 and 23-27 have been cancelled. Claims 1-6 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashiba et al. (JP 2001-149685) (hereinafter "Hashiba") in view of Mueller et al. (US 5,507,053) (hereinafter "Mueller").

Claims 1-6 and 8-10

Amended claim 1 recites: "...wherein the drain hole comprises a plurality of rows of drain holes provided around an edge of the front part of the rotary drum." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 8.

Regarding the primary reference Hashiba, Hashiba shows that the drain holes are formed only at the sidewall part of the rotating drum, not at the front part as recited in claim 1.

Regarding Mueller, Mueller also shows that that the drain holes are formed only at the sidewall part of the rotating drum, not at a front part as recited in claim 1.

This technical feature of claim 1 where the drain holes at the front part 22 of the rotary drum provides that the water is guided to the drain holes of the rotary drum during a rotation of the rotary drum, for example during a high speed spin-drying operation of the washing machine. Accordingly, the water is squeezed out of the laundry in the rotary drum to move outward in a radial direction of the rotary drum due to a centrifugal force, and is guided to the drain holes 25 provided on the front part of the rotary drum along the inclined internal surface of the cylindrical sidewall part, prior to being discharged to the outside of the rotary drum. This allows a smooth discharging of the water from the rotary drum and further provides that the drum washing machine only needs to feed a small amount of water from a water tub into the rotary drum after heating the small amount of water by use of a heater, thus reducing an amount of electricity required to heat the water, and reducing the washing time.

Claims 8-10 have been cancelled. Claims 2-6 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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